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New Directions

A Plan for the North Carolina State Parks
and Recreation System

1979 — 1984





State Parks Study Commission

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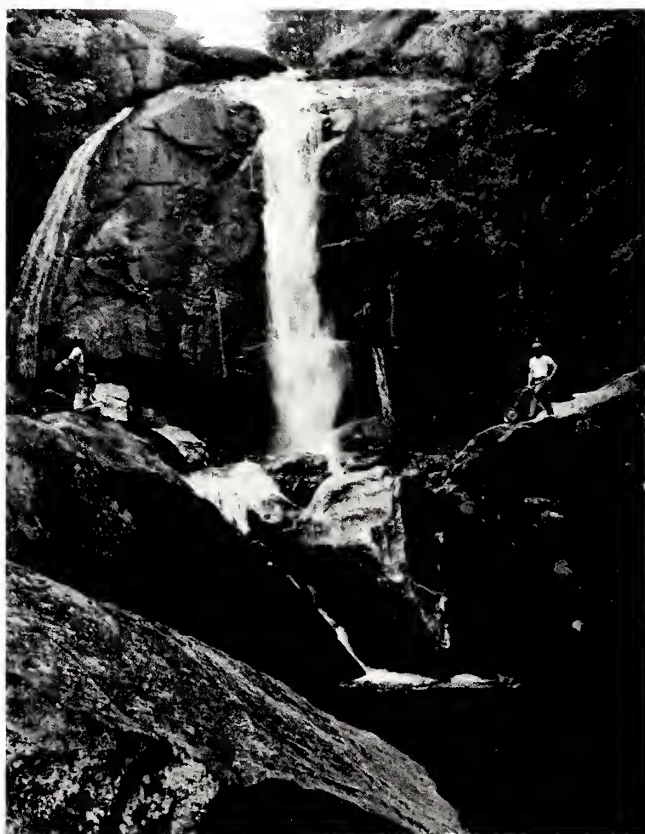
Representative Charles Webb
Greensboro

Hammocks Beach State Park



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South Mountains State Park



*To our fellow members
of the
General Assembly and North Carolina citizens*

In 1977, legislation was passed creating a State Parks Study Commission to prepare a report on the needs for parks and recreation in North Carolina. In response to that mandate, this five-year plan was developed following several public meetings, discussions with park and department officials, interested citizens, and visits by commission members to several parks.

We found there was not only a tremendous interest across the state in developing a park system of which we can be proud, but in developing recreation opportunities at the local level and in relatively new areas like natural and scenic rivers.

We also discovered a need for upgrading the salaries of many persons in the parks and recreation division and understand a job reclassification study is underway.

We hope you will choose to implement this plan, which would give so much enjoyment to so many while conserving many beautiful natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James B. Garrison".

Senator James B. Garrison

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ron Taylor".

*Representative George Ronald Taylor
Co-Chairmen*

Introduction

This five-year plan proposes several new directions for the state parks and recreation system in North Carolina.

Those new directions are aimed at providing a much broader approach to parks and recreation services for the people of this state. The plan reflects a very strong belief by the State Parks and Recreation Study Commission and many citizens that to meet our recreation needs there must be a strong partnership between federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. There must be a greater variety of areas within the park system. There must be more emphasis on making our parks and recreation areas usable by more people.

To accomplish those goals, the state parks will continue to offer recreation in protected natural settings. New facilities proposed for those parks will add significantly to the recreation opportunities within the parks.

An expansion of reservoir facilities will respond to the public demand for water-based recreation activities.

Expansion of natural and scenic rivers, trails, and natural areas will better serve recreation through conservation of natural resources.

State recreation consultants will assist local governments in providing more intensive-use recreation facilities at the local level.

The development of this five-year plan was coordinated with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which identifies the most critical issues and problems from the field of natural heritage and outdoor recreation in North Carolina. The recommendations contained in this legislative plan deal specifically with the state's role and commitment to resolving problems by detailing what will be done, who will do it, and how the solutions contribute to improvement of quality outdoor recreation throughout the state.

To better understand what this five-year plan means, we must look at the entire field of recreation as it has been, as it is now, and what the citizens of North Carolina want it to be.

The North Carolina State Parks System was established in 1915 with the acquisition of 1,200 acres including Mount Mitchell. Until 1973, the parks system depended heavily on gifts of land for expansion. This reliance on gifts often resulted in the acquisition of parks with unique natural features, but parks which were not necessarily where the people were and are.

Beginning in 1974, with a record state parks appropriation from the General Assembly, a major change took place in the direction of state parks acquisition. While all of the recent acquisitions still involved important natural features, many more parks were established closer to the citizens of this state. In fact, 98.3 percent of North Carolina's population is now within 50 miles of a state park, recreation area, or natural area.



Crowder's Mountain State Park

This plan proposes another shift in acquisition from establishing new parks to acquiring natural areas and protected areas at existing parks. Should a very few new areas become desirable, some of the proposed acquisition priorities may be altered to allow for purchase of new areas, or special appropriation requests might be made.

For example, one area that deserves special attention is the Central Piedmont. We recommend that a special study be made to determine what type of park, recreation area, wilderness area, and/or greenway should be established in that area. We would hope that through intergovernmental cooperation the appropriate area could be established there.

We further recommend that the General Assembly create a Triad Park Commission made up of local governments involved in the area and appropriate \$500,000 to the commission to acquire park land. The commission should work with the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development in obtaining federal funds to match local and state appropriations.

In addition we recommend that the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development look at the existing parks and recreation system to determine if some park lands owned by the state could be better operated by other levels of government. Specifically we feel that the assessment should begin with the Dismal Swamp and Boone's Cave.

Perhaps the major emphasis of this plan is on making the parks and recreation system more usable for the public. During the past ten years, the number of visitations to parks in North Carolina has increased six times faster than the population growth rate. Much of this increase can be attributed to an ever growing demand for activities such as picnicking, swimming, hiking, and camping. Unfortunately, this rapid growth has often resulted in overcrowding at those parks with some facilities. Other parks with few or no facilities can neither relieve the pressure on developed parks, nor serve adequately the persons visiting them. While the park system has nearly doubled in size in four years, the placing of facilities and staff in those parks to make the parks enjoyable has not kept pace.

Some parks, or areas within parks, are better left in a more natural condition, but we must keep in mind that parks are for people. This plan proposes development of facilities to make the benefits of most parks, and other state outdoor areas, more accessible to people in a manner that will protect the basic character of these areas.

The plan also places much more emphasis on natural and scenic rivers; a statewide trails system; protection of our natural heritage; and expansion of local recreation programs. Growth in demand for those types of areas has been equal to that in parks. We must be more responsive to those types of needs.

(Continued on next page)

Jockey's Ridge



(Introduction from page 3)

Finally, the park and recreation system in North Carolina is like a new house with empty rooms. It is pretty from the outside, but of minimum benefit when there is no furniture inside. The time has come to appropriately furnish our parks and recreation system for the citizens of North Carolina.

As we look ahead we face the following staggering deficiencies and challenges:

- ***State park and recreation area usage is expected to rise from 4.6 million persons in FY 1977-78 to 13.9 million in FY 1983-84.***
- ***Fewer than one half the parks and recreation areas are adequately developed for public use. Ten parks have only primitive restroom facilities and limited public use facilities. Thirteen more have no public use facilities or restrooms at all.***
- ***Lack of personnel to protect our parkland investment has resulted in what the chairman of the N.C. State Parks and Recreation Council called a "senseless savagery" of vandalism at state parks.***
- ***At developed parks, understaffing and overcrowding of limited facilities has sometimes turned park rangers into glorified parking lot attendants.***
- ***Citizens have nominated over 100 river segments for inclusion in the state natural and scenic river system. At the same time citizens want more segments in the state system—only two are in it now—the number of free flowing river segments with outstanding natural scenic qualities is diminishing.***
- ***Mathematically, the state commitment to trails figures out to be only 1½ inches of trail per citizen.***
- ***Survival of several hundred threatened, endangered, or unique native plant and animal species depends on a systematic approach to habitat protection. There is no system to accomplish such protection.***
- ***None of the 17 regions in the state have the minimum recommended supply of urban recreation land. Most have less than 40 percent of their needs.***
- ***The state has an obligation to pay \$12.7 million for acquisition and development of recreation facilities and land at Falls Lake reservoir over the next fifty years.***

The following five-year plan was proposed to meet these demands. In today's society, there are few better services that government can provide to a greater variety of people than the opportunity to relax, to enjoy, to learn about our environment. There are few better pursuits for government than to preserve our important natural heritage. This plan offers all of us a chance to do these things for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.



Park rangers become glorified parking lot attendants because of understaffing and overcrowding.



"Senseless savagery" of vandalism at Fort Macon State Park

Summary of Five-Year Recommendations

- Expand existing state parks and recreation areas by acquiring 20,617 acres of land at 28 sites as specified by individual master plans and as included in the Division's Land Acquisition Five-Year Plan. (See appendix)
 - Increase recreational opportunities throughout the system by developing 156 capital improvement projects at 31 sites as specified by individual master plans and as recommended by Capital Improvements Five-Year Plan. (See appendix)
 - Increase staffing throughout system by 88 persons as recommended in Personnel Five-Year Plan. (See appendix)
 - Identify the areas and features which best exemplify North Carolina's natural heritage; establish and manage a statewide system of protected natural areas; and develop strategies for active citizen awareness, appreciation, and involvement in the State Natural Heritage Program.
 - Establish a mountains-to-sea trail as the nucleus of coordinated government and private sector efforts to implement the North Carolina Trails System.
 - Increase the amount of revenue generated by park and recreation areas by developing rental facilities including vacation cabins at eight areas and state-controlled marinas at two reservoirs.
 - Increase and improve quantity and quality of local recreation/park opportunities in North Carolina by an expanded program of services to the public, private agency, and commercial sectors.
-

Comprehensive Planning

Annually define the major problems in the areas of natural heritage and parks and recreation in North Carolina and establish clearly the state's commitment to solving them.

Complete additional planning as necessary for receiving grant funds for state and local government under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

Complete surveys to define and measure the outdoor recreation needs of our citizens.

Complete a five-year update of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 1983.

Citizen Participation

Give citizens opportunities to participate in decisions on significant natural heritage, park, and recreation matters.

Beach Access

Complete a joint study with the Coastal Resources Commission on citizen access (including parking) to public beaches and waters. Local government, local citizens, and landowners should participate in the study.

Camping in State Parks and Recreation Areas

Continue to provide for primitive-type camping in state parks and continue to provide water, electrical hookups, and sewage dump stations at reservoirs leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

State Parks Study Commission

Request that the General Assembly create a State Parks Study Commission during 1981 session.

Parks and Recreation Areas

During the past ten years, the number of visitations to park and recreation areas has increased six times faster than the population growth rate. Much of this increase can be attributed to an ever growing demand for day use activities such as picnicking, swimming, and trail use. Over three million visitors annually are using state parks and recreation areas, excluding reservoirs. By 1984, a projected 8.9 million people per year will visit these same type state parks and recreation areas.

Of the 108,648 acres of park land in the system today, approximately one half have been acquired since 1973. Only 15 of the 38 areas managed by the state can be considered adequately developed for public use with modern restrooms, tent campgrounds, and picnic areas with shelters. Ten areas operate with interim facilities such as pit privies, primitive camping areas, a few trails, small picnic areas, and inadequate drinking water supplies. Thirteen other state areas are totally undeveloped with no facilities at all. Among these, natural areas will remain completely undeveloped.

Expansion of existing state park and recreation areas as planned will require 11,447 acres of land and development of recreation and service facilities at a cost of \$37,500,00 over the next five years. An additional \$5,104,710 will be needed to pay the salaries of permanent and part-time personnel who will provide full service to the users of these newly developed facilities.

State parks and recreation areas have been established to protect the best examples of North Carolina's natural landmarks and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on a large scale. Although the location of these areas is dependent upon the supply of outstanding natural and scenic resources, most of the population (98.3%) is within 50 miles of a park or recreation area.

As people become more concerned with energy-consuming activities, they will seek recreation opportunities closer to home. Parks and recreation areas must be prepared to handle the greater numbers of visitors anticipated over the next several years.



Carolina Beach State Park



Pettigrew State Park

Needs

- Funds to acquire 11,447 acres of land at 25 sites as specified by individual state park and recreation area individual master plans. Funds to develop new recreation facilities at existing areas compatible with master plans: trails for hiking, nature study, and horseback riding; lakes for swimming and boating.
- Personnel to serve visitors at newly developed areas.
- Greater input from the general public in determining recreational uses for parks and recreation areas.
- Professional planning and design to develop plans for all park and recreation areas and to design and supervise the construction of recreational use facilities (campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, etc.) and of site rehabilitation projects (terracing of badly eroded picnic areas, relocation of overused trails, reconstruction of eroded shorelines of swimming areas, etc.).
- High revenue producing facilities such as vacation cabins.

Action Plan

- Develop management plans to include construction decisions and cost estimates for development and land acquisition.
- Acquire 11,447 acres of land at 25 existing areas to complete 35 percent of acquisitions proposed in master plans.
- Construct 156 capital improvement projects at 31 existing areas to complete 40 percent of development proposed in master plans.
- Complete environmental impact statements for all park and recreation areas.
- Employ 48 permanent and 42 seasonal park and recreational personnel to provide full service to users of newly developed facilities.
- Complete first phase development of 60 vacation cabins at five separate areas to provide revenue producing facilities.

Stone Mountain State Park



Parks and Recreation Areas Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition	1,400,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	11,400,000
Development	4,649,000	3,895,000	4,864,000	5,973,000	6,147,000	25,528,000
Operations & Personnel	362,933	688,824	1,050,097	1,402,966	1,598,990	5,104,710
Personnel-Field	(9)	(9.5)	(14)	(12.5)	(3)	(48)
Seasonal Labor	(10)	(5)	(10)	(10)	(7)	(42)
Total	\$6,411,933	5,583,824	8,914,997	10,375,966	10,745,990	42,032,710

Reservoirs

The State of North Carolina has made a commitment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to share the financial responsibility for recreational land purchase and development of facilities, which the state will operate and maintain at four multipurpose Corps reservoirs in North Carolina.

Three reservoirs—Jordan, Falls, and Randleman Lakes—are being planned near major metropolitan areas in North Carolina. A new plan is also being prepared for expanded facilities at Kerr Lake.

Multipurpose reservoirs provide for various benefits including water supply, hydroelectric power, and flood control. These impoundments are serving the public as a major resource for water-based recreation. North Carolina's four reservoirs will supply the state with 40,000 acres of open water.

The state has an obligation to the Corps of Engineers to pay for 50 percent of land acquisition costs for 4,550 acres and development costs at Falls Lake. The total amount is estimated to be \$12.7 million. That \$12.7 million can be repaid to the federal government over a fifty-year period at 3.463 percent interest. The annual payment will be \$538,000, with \$193,680 for land and \$344,320 for development. Payment will begin in 1982.

The Corps paid 100 percent of land acquisition costs at Jordan Lake. Land has been paid for at Kerr Lake. The State is committed to cost-share in the development of Randleman Lake, which will be completed in 1985.

Another \$2.4 million is needed for development of recreation facilities, for which the Corps will not cost-share, at Falls and Jordan Lakes. Approximately \$1.9 million is needed for facilities at Kerr Lake. In addition, \$2.8 million would be used to pay for 26 full-time and 16 part-time employees at those lakes during the five-year period.

Initial development costs at reservoirs are much higher than at state parks and recreation areas. However, high revenue producers such as marinas and vacation cabins could greatly offset operating costs.

Kerr Lake currently has 1.4 million annual visitations. With new development at Kerr, Falls, and Jordan Lakes during the next five years, annual visitations will increase by 5.4 million or a total of 6.8 million visitations per year. Major use will center around swimming beaches and boating facilities with supporting picnic areas, campgrounds, and cabin colonies.

Vacation areas providing swimming, power boating, and sailing are in high demand in North Carolina, while opportunities are low in supply. Kerr Lake has provided major outdoor recreational opportunities since the 1950's.



Kerr Lake

Needs

- Funds to make the first two payments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for one half of the cost of 4,550 acres purchased at Falls Lake and one half of development costs.
- Funds for development of recreational facilities at 21 sites on Kerr, Jordan, and Falls Lakes.
- Funds to provide field staff to operate reservoir developments at Kerr, Jordan, and Falls Lakes.
- Recreational facilities which will produce revenues to assist in offsetting high operation costs.



Action Plan

- Complete master plans for Falls, Kerr, and Randleman Lakes.
- Reimburse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \$12.7 million over the next fifty years for 50 percent of land and development costs at Falls Lake.
- Employ 26 field staff to operate 21 new reservoir developments at Kerr, Jordan, and Falls Lakes.
- Develop and operate (or lease) marina facilities at each reservoir as high revenue producers.
- Develop and operate vacation cabins as high revenue producers.



Reservoir Areas Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition				193,680	193,680	387,360
Development	546,000	389,000	3,210,000	544,320	344,320	5,033,640
Operations & Personnel	40,622	436,185	762,076	772,076	782,076	2,793,035
Personnel-Field	(2)	(14)	(10)			(26)
Seasonal Labor	(2)	(8)	(6)			(16)
Total	\$586,622	\$825,185	\$3,972,076	\$1,510,076	\$1,320,076	\$8,214,035
Kerr Reservoir						
Acquisition						
Development	546,000	389,000	760,000	200,000		1,895,000
Personnel	(2)					(2)
Seasonal Labor	(2)					(2)
Falls Reservoir						
Acquisition				193,680	193,680	387,360
Development			1,700,000	344,320	344,320	2,388,640
Personnel			(10)			(10)
Seasonal Labor			(6)			(6)
Jordan Reservoir						
Acquisition						
Development			750,000			750,000
Personnel		(14)				(14)
Seasonal Labor		(8)				(8)

Natural Heritage/ Natural Areas

North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program, established in 1976 with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, is nationally recognized as the most effective preservation program among the seven state programs in the Southeast. Federal grants will provide most of the support for the program through October, 1979, at which time a commitment of state funds will be needed.

A major goal of the North Carolina Natural Heritage program is to establish permanently protected nature preserves on public lands, primarily within the state park and recreation system. In addition, the program will encourage and assist private landowners in preserving key natural areas on their own property. All important natural areas, public and private, would be listed in a state register of natural areas.

A total commitment of \$1,807,775 from the state over the next five years is required to finance a natural resources inventory on the existence, location, and condition of habitats of rare plants and animals, unique plant communities, geologic features, wildlife habitats, and other critical natural elements. The funds also will be used to acquire natural area sites and develop trails and interpretive materials and to provide protection of the areas.

Natural Heritage information is applicable to a wide variety of activities including land use planning, recreation, and education. The program contributes toward preserving the balance between economic development and conservation of the natural environment.

Development of similar programs on a nationwide basis is a growing trend sparked by creation in 1978 of a national heritage program administered by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service in the Department of the Interior.

In the future, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program will provide our citizens with examples of the natural character of the State of North Carolina. Without the program, the habitats for many endangered, rare, and unusual animal and plant species will cease to exist in North Carolina for future generations to enjoy.



Brown Pelican

Needs

- An ongoing inventory system to identify and classify those features which best exemplify North Carolina's natural heritage.
- Funds to acquire land and conservation easements for recommended natural areas.
- Funds to develop trails and interpretive displays at five existing natural areas.
- Personnel to provide protection at established natural areas.



Merchants Millpond

Action Plan

- Maintain and provide up-to-date inventory information on natural areas.
- Identify significant natural areas in the State Parks and Recreation System and develop management and protection plans for these and other natural areas on state-owned lands.
- Encourage private citizens to preserve key natural areas on their lands.
- Establish a state register of natural areas.
- Develop and initiate procedures for voluntary dedication of natural areas on private and public lands.
- Promote land preservation through private actions by The Nature Conservancy and other nonprofit organizations.
- Develop a program to promote public awareness of North Carolina's natural heritage through news media, workshops, printed materials, and public meetings to formulate and review natural area management plans.



Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve

Natural Heritage/Natural Areas Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition	\$412,000	\$208,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$241,000	\$1,231,000
Development	3,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	31,000
Operations & Personnel	105,155	106,155	108,155	111,155	115,155	545,775
Personnel-Administration	(3)					(3)
Total	\$520,155	\$323,155	\$300,155	\$303,155	\$361,155	\$1,807,775

State Trails

Mathematically, the state commitment to trails figures out to only 1½ inches of trail for each citizen. At the same time, trail usage has increased dramatically in recent years, while continued development threatens available open space for establishment of future trails.

In 1973, responding to this need, the General Assembly passed the North Carolina Trails System Act. This act establishes a statewide system of scenic and recreational trails to and within public parks, forests, and recreation areas for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, and riding off-the-highway vehicles. The North Carolina Trails Committee, a seven-member advisory group created by the legislation, has established goals and criteria for the State Trails System, and a conceptual plan is nearing completion.

Implementation of the plan over the next five years will require \$1,001,000 for land acquisition and scenic rights-of-way for 80 miles of public trails, the first step in developing a mountains-to-sea trail across North Carolina. Development funds amounting to \$653,500 are required for trail signs and overnight camping along the east-west trail and other trails within the system.

According to a 1974 trails inventory, there are approximately 2,500 miles of designated public trail in North Carolina for the state's 5.3 million citizens. Over 85 percent of these trails are located in national parks and forests; seven percent in city and county operated parks; and only six percent in state parks, historic sites, and small state forests.

The distribution of trails is not well balanced geographically. Over 86 percent of the existing public trails are located in the North Carolina mountains where 17 percent of the state's citizens reside. On the other hand, only five percent of the public trails are found in the populous Piedmont crescent, home for 47 percent of the state's population.

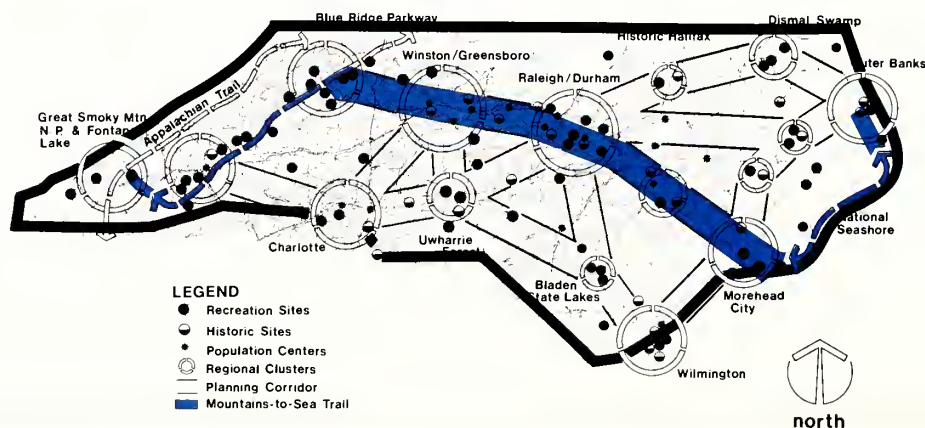
The first State Recreation Trail, the Lumber River Canoe Trail in Scotland County, was designated in May, 1978. The second, the French Broad River Canoe Trail in Transylvania, Buncombe, and Henderson Counties, was designated in September, 1978. Both were local government endeavors with little direct financial support from the State.

Regarding trail usage nationally, hiking with a pack has increased from three million annual user days in 1947 to about 42 million annual user days in 1975, while trail mileage available nationwide has decreased by almost one third in the last fifty years because of highway development and economic growth.



William B. Umstead State Park

North Carolina Trails System Conceptual Plan Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Proposed)



Needs

- Adequate supply of trails to meet the ever increasing demand. Adopting a standard of one mile of trail per one thousand population is a reasonable measure for planning new trails, thus indicating a need for approximately 4,000 miles of new trails in the state. A dedicated partnership of state, local, and federal agencies and the private sector (citizen and corporate communities) could achieve this goal by the year 2020 through development of 100 miles of new trail per year.
- Long-term maintenance of quality in trails and associated facilities. This need presents a significant opportunity for citizen volunteers to become actively involved in building a legacy of state trails. Already rising to this challenge is a new citizens group, the North Carolina Trails Association.
- Information for trail users. Trail users must be informed about available trail facilities through such media as periodicals, maps and trail guides. In addition, users must be informed of and encouraged to use trail practices which will protect the resources and not infringe upon the enjoyment of others.

Action Plan

- Encourage the creation of a well-planned statewide system of recreational and scenic trails which provide access to, travel within, and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural heritage.
- Promote development of 100 miles of new federal, state, and local trails per year.
- Develop the mountains-to-sea trail through co-operative efforts of various units of government and the private sector with emphasis on incorporating citizen volunteers.
- Improve the quality of existing trails through increased maintenance and/or redesign.
- Assist in training and organizing volunteers for trail work.
- Provide citizens with information on available trail facilities and safe and environmentally sensitive trail behavior.



State Trails Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$188,000	\$250,000	\$313,000	\$1,001,000
Development	82,000	82,000	123,000	163,000	205,000	655,000
Operations & Personnel	-0-	-0-	20,862	20,862	112,050	153,774
Personnel-Administration			(1)			(1)
Personnel-Field					(3)	(3)
Totals	\$207,000	\$207,000	\$331,862	\$433,862	\$630,050	\$1,809,774

Natural and Scenic Rivers

The 1971 General Assembly created the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System to strike a balance between use of rivers for energy, water supply, and flood control and the preservation of certain rivers in a free-flowing natural or scenic condition.

Citizens have recommended over 100 outstanding river segments to be included in the state system. How many of those segments will be included in the system by the General Assembly will be determined after lengthy study and review by state government and citizen groups.

Six rivers are currently under study. Depending on public comment, and the desires of the General Assembly, an average of one river per year could be included in the state natural and scenic river system during the next five years. In that event, \$3,810,000 will be required through 1984 to acquire land and facilities for

public access areas along designated river segments. Facilities for primitive camping, picnicking, swimming, canoe access, and parking may be included.

If fewer rivers are included in the system, less funding will be required. But for planning purposes, an estimate of five rivers in the next five years has been made.

In 1976, the South Fork of the New River in Ashe and Alleghany Counties and the Linville River in Burke County became the first rivers approved by the General Assembly for inclusion in the state system. Also, the New River is a national scenic river.

Natural and scenic rivers are a diminishing resource in North Carolina for education, recreation, and enjoyment. Protection of these rivers and the land along them is imperative if we are to preserve a part of our natural heritage for future generations.



New River

Needs

- Designation of at least five natural/scenic rivers. These rivers will possess outstanding natural, scenic, educational, geological, recreational, historic, fish and wildlife, scientific, and cultural values.
- Citizen participation in river study and planning through appointment of local advisory committees for selected river studies. Local citizens will assist and advise the state government study team on river uses, acquisition and development, designation, and management as a natural/scenic river if it is desired.
- Funds for acquisition of land for public access areas along designated river segments and for obtaining conservation easements to protect river boundaries.
- Funds for development of recreation facilities at public access areas as prescribed by individual river management plans.

Action Plan

- Complete river studies currently underway and report to the Governor and General Assembly as appropriate. At least four river studies will be in progress at all times leading to recommendations for designation to the Governor and the General Assembly.
- Ensure citizen participation through appointment of a local citizen advisory committee for each river study to work with state government river study teams. Public meetings will be held in river study areas to obtain citizen input for river management.
- Complete a master plan for acquisition and development for each river within six months from the date of designation and proceed as funds are made available.
- Complete preliminary management plans for all rivers studied. Interim management responsibilities will be assigned immediately after a river is designated. Permanent management personnel will be employed as acquisition and development are completed.



Natural and Scenic Rivers Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition	\$270,000	\$270,000	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$1,350,000	\$3,330,000
Development	64,000	64,000	96,000	96,000	160,000	480,000
Operations & Personnel	1,220	3,220	7,220	30,662	36,662	78,984
Personnel-Field				(1)		(1)
Total	\$335,220	\$337,220	\$823,220	\$846,662	\$1,546,662	\$3,888,984

Local Parks and Recreation

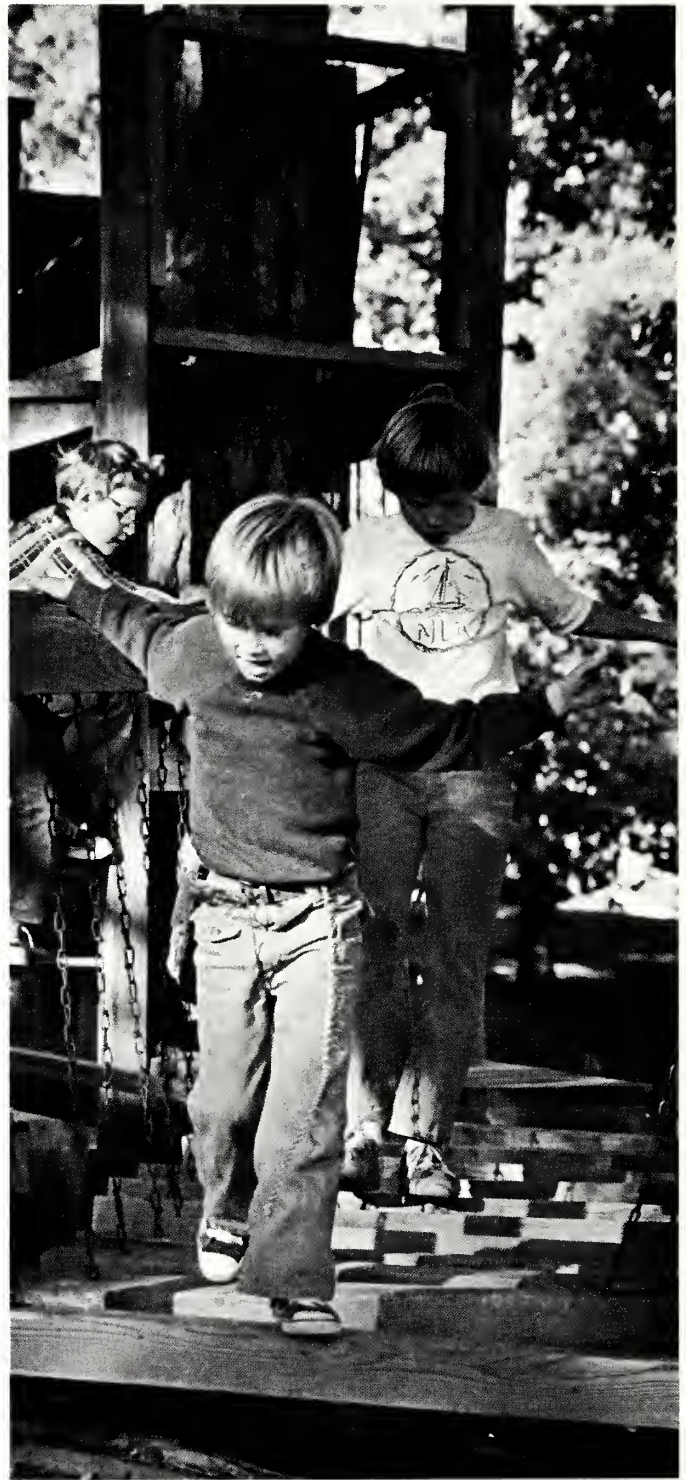
The fastest growing segment of public parks and recreation in North Carolina is at the local level.

North Carolina now has the most extensive network of local government park and recreation programs in the nation with 105 municipal and 55 county park and recreation departments. According to current projections, by 1984 there will be 30 new local recreation departments.

State parks and recreation consultants provide professional recreation management assistance to local programs. Many local programs were started under guidance and advice of state consultants. Many of the local programs are new and need continuing professional consulting assistance on such matters as program design, land acquisition, staff training, and grant applications. For example, none of the 17 regions have the minimum suggested supply of intensive urban recreation areas.

To help combat these problems, the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development recently placed two more consultants in the field. But the demand for assistance—over 300 requests from local governments and other recreation agencies last year—has exceeded staff capability. In the past seven years, while the number of local recreation departments has more than doubled, the state has added only two consultants. The long term result of such staff shortages could be the development of poorly conceived recreation and parks programs at the local level with inadequate services and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Consequently, the consulting services section must be expanded. Such expansion will result in an increase in the number of local recreation departments; provide more in-depth training and planning assistance for local departments; and increase local awareness and participation in recreation grant programs. An addition of two persons over the next five years will pay dividends toward putting more recreation and parks closer to the people.



Needs

- Increased local leisure opportunities for all citizens through establishment of additional municipal and county park and recreation departments.
- Regional and statewide training courses, seminars, and conferences for staff and local government professionals.
- Expanded park/recreation advisory, consulting, technical, and planning assistance to units of local government.
- Increased technical publications.

Action Plan

- Organize 30 new county and municipal park and recreation departments by 1984.
- Increase training opportunities for local professionals.
- Implement a program of increased team planning assistance in parks and recreation to local units of government.
- Administer funds in Youth Conservation Corps and Young Adult Conservation Corps programs.
- Assist in administration of Land and Water Conservation Fund program.



Local Parks and Recreation Budget Requirements

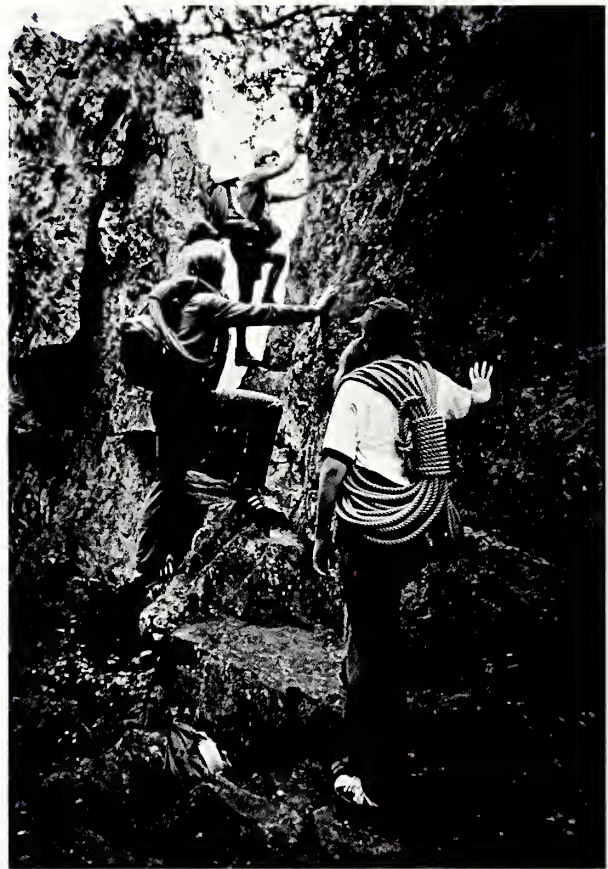
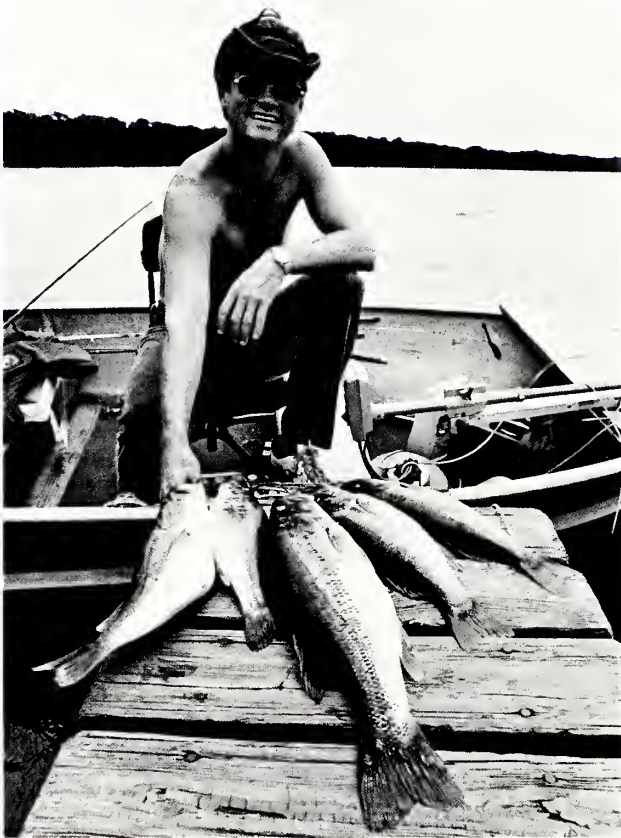
	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Acquisition						
Development						
Operations & Personnel	19,584	39,632	41,882	43,982	46,082	191,162
Personnel-Administration	(1)	(1)				(2)
Total	\$19,584	\$39,632	\$41,882	\$43,982	\$46,082	\$191,162

Total Budget Requirements

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	Total
Land Acquisition*	\$2,707,000	\$1,603,000	\$4,093,000	\$4,348,680	\$5,097,680	\$17,849,360
Development	5,344,000	4,439,000	8,300,000	6,783,320	6,861,320	31,727,640
Operations & Personnel	594,538	1,339,040	2,066,090	2,456,601	2,765,913	9,222,182
Total Requirements**	\$8,645,538	\$7,381,040	\$14,459,090	\$13,588,601	\$14,724,913	\$58,799,182

*Includes \$500,000 special appropriation recommended by the State Parks Study Commission to purchase land for a park in the Piedmont Triad area. Total also includes \$354,742 for administration.

**Approximately \$15,420,000 needed for land acquisition and development can be derived from federal funds. Totals include amounts needed for State Parks, Reservoirs, Trails, Rivers, and Natural Areas.



Appendix

Land Acquisitions—Five-Year Plan

Area	Exist. Acres	New Acres 78-79 (Sched.)	New Acres 79-84	% Compl.	Devel. Land Needed	Primary Resource Lands Needed	Secondary Resource Lands Needed	Planning Status
Baldhead				100%				B
Bay Tree Lake	1,418		570	100%				C-12/77
Boone's Cave	110			100%				B
Bushy Lake	1,007		300	52%		1,000		C-12/77
Carolina Beach	1,740	70		100%				A
Chowan Swamp	6,059			100%				B
Cliffs of the Neuse	593		242	100%				C-12/77
Crowder's Mountain	1,966		1,062	76%			954	C-3/75
Dismal Swamp	14,344			100%				C-1/74
Duke Power	1,399	100	56	63%	783		130	C-12/73
Eno River	1,568	193	586	67%			1,168	U-12/78
Falls Lake			4,550	100%				U-2/79
Fort Macon	385			100%				A
Goose Creek	1,209	113	361	100%				C-2/76
Hammocks Beach	892		200	100%				A
Hanging Rock	4,819	472	450	69%		448	2,090	A
Hemlock Bluffs	85		90	78%			50	B
Jockey's Ridge	270	58	85	100%				C-7/76
Jones Lake	2,208			100%				C-12/77
Jordan Lake			2,500	100%				U-12/78
Kerr Lake	2,195		1,805	100%				U-12/79
Lake Waccamaw	9,211		1,385	100%				C-7/76
Linville River	0			100%				B
Masonboro Island	107			10%		1,000		B
Medoc Mountain	2,305		192	100%				C-9/75
Merchants Millpond	1,947	215	765	100%				C-2/78
Mitchell's Mill	67		83	100%				B
Morrow Mountain	4,508		250	90%			508	U-1/79
Mount Jefferson	541		79	100%				C-8/77
Mount Mitchell	1,469		501	86%		430		C-12/77
New River	9	301	204	100%				C-3/77
Pettigrew	17,369		212	100%				C-11/77
Pilot Mountain	3,802			95%			198	C-12/70
Randleman Lake				0%	2,600			A
Raven Rock	2,731		1,266	72%				C-3/77
Singletary Lake	1,221			100%				C-12/77
South Mountains	5,779		845	79%	310	1,240		U-1/79
Stone Mountain	10,463	215	1,496	58%		2,784	10,390	C-7/71
Theodore Roosevelt	265			100%				B
Weymouth Woods	425		193	100%				B
White Lake	1,068		25	100%				C-12/77
William B. Umstead	5,289	59	264	88%	244		516	C-10/74
Totals	110,843	1,796	20,617		3,937	6,902	16,004	

Note: State Parks Study Commission recommends a special appropriation of \$500,000 to purchase land for a park in the Piedmont Triad area.

Key for Planning:

C - Complete	A - Master Plan Required
U - Underway	B - Management Plan Required

Capital Improvements—Five-Year Plan

Area	Proposed Expenditures							1985 % Dev.
	Exit. *% Dev.	(Sched.) 78-79	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	
Baldhead Island	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%
Bay Tree Lake	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%
Boone's Cave	R 100% U 100% F 100%							R 100% U 100% F 100%
Bushy Lake	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%
Carolina Beach	R 90% U 90% F 50%	\$117,000		\$44,000	\$513,000			\$557,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Chowan Swamp	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%
Cliffs of the Neuse	R 50% U 75% F 75%	48,000	22,000	30,000	110,000	625,000		787,000 R 90% U 95% F 95%
Crowder's Mountain ..	R 5% U 5% F 5%	479,000		550,000	100,000	415,000	462,000	1,527,000 R 90% U 85% F 85%
Dismal Swamp	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%
Duke Power	R 60% U 75% F 20%	60,000	190,000		495,000	375,000		1,060,000 R 85% U 85% F 50%
Eno River	R 10% U 5% F 5%	320,000	300,000				879,000	1,179,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Falls Lake	R 0% U 0% F 0%			500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	4,500,000 R 50% U 50% F 50%
Fort Macon	R 100% U 100% F 95%	145,000		400,000	430,000			830,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Goose Creek	R 95% U 95% F 50%		860,000					860,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Hammocks Beach	R 80% U 80% F 75%	26,000		33,000	40,000			73,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Hanging Rock	R 90% U 90% F 90%			265,000	10,000			275,000 R 100% U 100% F 100%
Hemlock Bluffs	R 0% U 0% F 0%							R 0% U 0% F 0%

Capital Improvements—Five-Year Plan *Continued*

Area	Exit. *% Dev.	(Sched.) 78-79	Proposed Expenditures					79-84	1985 % Dev.
			79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84		
Jockey's Ridge	R 80 ⁰ / ₀ U 80 ⁰ / ₀ F 25 ⁰ / ₀		160,000		55,000	126,000	283,000	624,000	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 100 ⁰ / ₀
Jones Lake	R 80 ⁰ / ₀ R 85 ⁰ / ₀ F 75 ⁰ / ₀			135,000	127,000	126,000		262,000	R 85 ⁰ / ₀ U 90 ⁰ / ₀ F 85 ⁰ / ₀
Jordan Lake	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀			500,000				500,000	R 50 ⁰ / ₀ U 50 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀
Kerr Reservoir	R 75 ⁰ / ₀ U 75 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀	65,000	546,000	389,000	760,000	200,000		1,895,000	R 85 ⁰ / ₀ U 85 ⁰ / ₀ F 70 ⁰ / ₀
Lake Waccamaw	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ D 0 ⁰ / ₀	183,000	200,000			522,000	719,000	1,441,000	R 80 ⁰ / ₀ U 80 ⁰ / ₀ F 70 ⁰ / ₀
Linville River	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀								R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀
Masonboro Island	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ R 0 ⁰ / ₀ R 0 ⁰ / ₀								R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀
Medoc Mountain	R 5 ⁰ / ₀ J 5 ⁰ / ₀ F 5 ⁰ / ₀		426,000	100,000	409,000	1,091,000		2,026,000	R 75 ⁰ / ₀ U 85 ⁰ / ₀ F 85 ⁰ / ₀
Merchants Mill Pond ..	R 1 ⁰ / ₀ U 2 ⁰ / ₀ F 2 ⁰ / ₀	388,000	255,000			99,000	1,742,000	2,096,000	R 75 ⁰ / ₀ U 75 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀
Mitchell's Mill	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀			14,000				14,000	R 50 ⁰ / ₀ U 50 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀
Morrow Mountain	R 90 ⁰ / ₀ U 90 ⁰ / ₀ F 80 ⁰ / ₀				206,000	106,000		312,000	R 90 ⁰ / ₀ U 95 ⁰ / ₀ F 85 ⁰ / ₀
Mount Jefferson	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 100 ⁰ / ₀				12,000			12,000	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 100 ⁰ / ₀
Mount Mitchell	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 98 ⁰ / ₀	97,000	110,000		5,000	5,000		120,000	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 98 ⁰ / ₀
New River	R 0 ⁰ / ₀ U 0 ⁰ / ₀ F 0 ⁰ / ₀		220,000			213,000		433,000	R 100 ⁰ / ₀ U 100 ⁰ / ₀ F 100 ⁰ / ₀
Pettigrew	R 10 ⁰ / ₀ U 10 ⁰ / ₀ F 10 ⁰ / ₀		110,000		114,000	1,092,000		1,316,000	R 65 ⁰ / ₀ U 65 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀
Pilot Mountain	R 40 ⁰ / ₀ U 40 ⁰ / ₀ F 25 ⁰ / ₀	65,000	40,000	700,000	120,000			860,000	R 60 ⁰ / ₀ U 60 ⁰ / ₀ F 50 ⁰ / ₀

*R-Roads
U-Utilities
F-Facilities

Capital Improvements—Five-Year Plan *Continued*

Area	Proposed Expenditures								1985 % Dev.
	Exit. *% Dev.	(Sched.) 78-79	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	79-84	
Randleman Lake	R 0% U 0% F 0%								R 0% U 0% F 0%
Raven Rock	R 10% U 5% F 15%			250,000	80,000	835,000	819,000	1,984,000	R 75% U 75% D 50%
Singletary Lake	R 95% U 95% F 90%				315,000			315,000	R 100% U 100% F 100%
South Mountains	R 1% U 1% F 1%	120,000			230,000	269,000		499,000	R 15% U 15% F 15%
Stone Mountain	R 1% U 1% F 1%		1,130,000		145,000		1,243,000	2,518,000	R 50% U 50% F 40%
Theodore Roosevelt ...	R 0% U 0% F 0%				3,000			3,000	R 100% U 100% F 100%
Weymouth Woods	R 100% U 100% F 98%				55,000			55,000	R 100% U 100% F 100%
White Lake	R 0% U 0% F 0%								R 0% U 0% F 0%
William B. Umstead	R 50% U 70% F 40%	87,000	80,000	985,000	530,000			1,595,000	R 65% U 75% F 60%
Areas Total		\$2,200,000	4,649,000	4,895,000	5,864,000	6,973,000	8,147,000	30,528,000	
Programs									
State Trails			82,000	82,000	123,000	163,000	205,000	655,000	
Scenic Rivers			64,000	64,000	96,000	96,000	160,000	480,000	
Natural Areas			3,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	31,000	
Programs Total			149,000	155,000	226,000	266,000	370,000	1,166,000	
Grand Total		\$2,200,000	4,798,000	5,050,000	6,090,000	7,239,000	8,517,000	31,694,000	

*R-Roads
U-Utilities
F-Facilities

Personnel—Five-Year Plan

Area	Exist	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84
Baldhead	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bay Tree Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boone's Cave	-	-	-	G UW	PR I	-
Bushy Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Beach	4	G UW PR II	-	Dist Supt	G UW	-
Chowan Swamp	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cliffs of the Neuse	3.5	Chf Rgr	-	MM II	-	-
Crowder's Mountain	2	-	-	-	PR I	PR II
Dismal Swamp	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duke Power	3	-	Chf Rgr Clk-Typ (1/2)	-	-	-
Eno River	2	PS I	-	-	-	-
Falls Lake	-	-	-	1 Mgr. 1 Clk-Typ 2 PR II 2 PR I 2 G UW 2 MM IV	-	-
Fort Macon	3	-	PR II	-	Chr Rgr	-
Goose Creek	3	-	-	-	-	-
Hammocks Beach	2	MM II	-	-	-	-
Hanging Rock	4	-	-	Dist Supt Clk-Typ (1/2)	Chf Rgr	-
Hemlock Bluffs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jockey's Ridge	1	-	-	PR II	-	-
Jones Lake	2	-	-	PR I	-	-
Jordan Lake	-	PR II (2)	1 Mgr 1 C-Tp IV 4 PR II 3 PR I 3 G UW 2 MM IV	-	-	-
Kerr Lake	18	PR I	PR I	PR I	PR I MM II	-
Lake Waccamaw	1	-	-	-	-	PS I
Linville River	-	-	-	-	-	-
Masonboro Island	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medoc Mountain	3	-	-	PR II	PR I	-
Merchants Millpond	2	-	PS I	-	-	-
Mitchell's Mill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morrow Mountain	4	-	-	Clk-Typ (1/2)	-	-
Mount Jefferson/New River ..	1	PS I	-	PR I	-	-
Mount Mitchell	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pettigrew	2	-	-	-	PR II	-
Pilot Mountain	3	-	-	G UW	-	-
Randleman Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raven Rock	3	-	-	-	Nat.	-
Singletary Lake	3.5	-	-	-	-	-
South Mountains	1	-	PS I	-	PR II	-

Continued

Personnel—Five-Year Plan *Continued*

Area	Exist	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84
Stone Mountain	3	-	PR II	-	-	-
Theodore Roosevelt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weymouth Woods	2	-	-	-	Clk-Typ (½)	PR I
White Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
William B. Umstead	6.5	-	MM II	Chf Rgr	-	-
Maintenance/Central	6	MM II (West)	MM II (East)	MM II (Central)	MM II (West)	-
Scenic Rivers	-	-	-	-	PR II	-
State Trails	-	-	-	Admin. Coordinator	-	PR II(3)
District (East) CN	-	Natr.	-	-	-	-
District (West)DP	-	-	-	Natr.	-	-
District (Central) WBU	-	-	Natr.	-	-	-
Local Parks and Recreation ...	12	C-Typ II	Regnl Supv.	-	-	-
Natural Areas/Heritage	2	1 Coord 2 Inf. Spec.	-	-	-	-
Other Recommendations	-	3 Conslt Arch	-	Clk-Typ II	-	-
Totals		18	24.5	26	13.5	6

PS I - Park Superintendent

PS II - Park Superintendent

PR I - Park Ranger I

PR II - Park Ranger II

GUW - General Utility Worker

Natr - Naturalist

MM - Maintenance Mechanic

Chf Rgr - Chief Ranger

Mgr - Reservoir Manager

Dist Supt - District Superintendent

Clk-Typ - Clerk-Typist

Coord - Heritage Coordinator

Inf Spec - Heritage Information Specialist

Conslt Archt - Consulting Architects

The Five-Year Plan and Balanced Growth for North Carolina

The North Carolina State Parks and Recreation System reflects a major goal of the Governor's balanced growth policy for North Carolina: "to maintain our natural environmental heritage while accommodating urban and agricultural growth."



General Assembly of North Carolina

Session 1977

RATIFIED BILL

Chapter 1030 Senate Bill 754

An act to create a commission to study the statewide system of state parks and to make recommendations for necessary legislation to the 1977-1978 session of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is hereby created a State Parks Study Commission to be composed of 12 members, four of whom shall be members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, four of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, and four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The members shall elect their chairman.

Section 2. The commission shall have as its purpose the study and formulation of recommendations for direction and legislation concerning the entire system of State parks to include such issues as:

- (a) State and federal funding,
- (b) land acquisition,
- (c) personnel classifications within the Division of State Parks,
- (d) the development, capacity and operation of existing and proposed parks,
- (e) the present and projected needs for and placement of park facilities,
- (f) access to park and recreational facilities, and
- (g) any other issues consideration of which is deemed by the commission to be essential to the development of an orderly, planned, comprehensive system of State parks and recreational areas.

Section 3. The commission shall file a written report of its findings and recommendations with the presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the Senate on or before the tenth day of the 1978 Session of the General Assembly, and shall supplement that report, if necessary, with a further written report filed on or before the tenth day of the 1979 Session. Upon the filing of the latter report, the commission shall terminate.

Section 4. The members of the commission shall be paid appropriate per diem and travel expenses as are provided for members of the State boards and commissions generally. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Parks Study Commission seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) in fiscal year 1977-78 and seven thousand five hundred (\$7,500) in fiscal year 1978-79 to pay the reasonable expenses of the study.

Section 5. This act shall become effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 1st day of July, 1977.

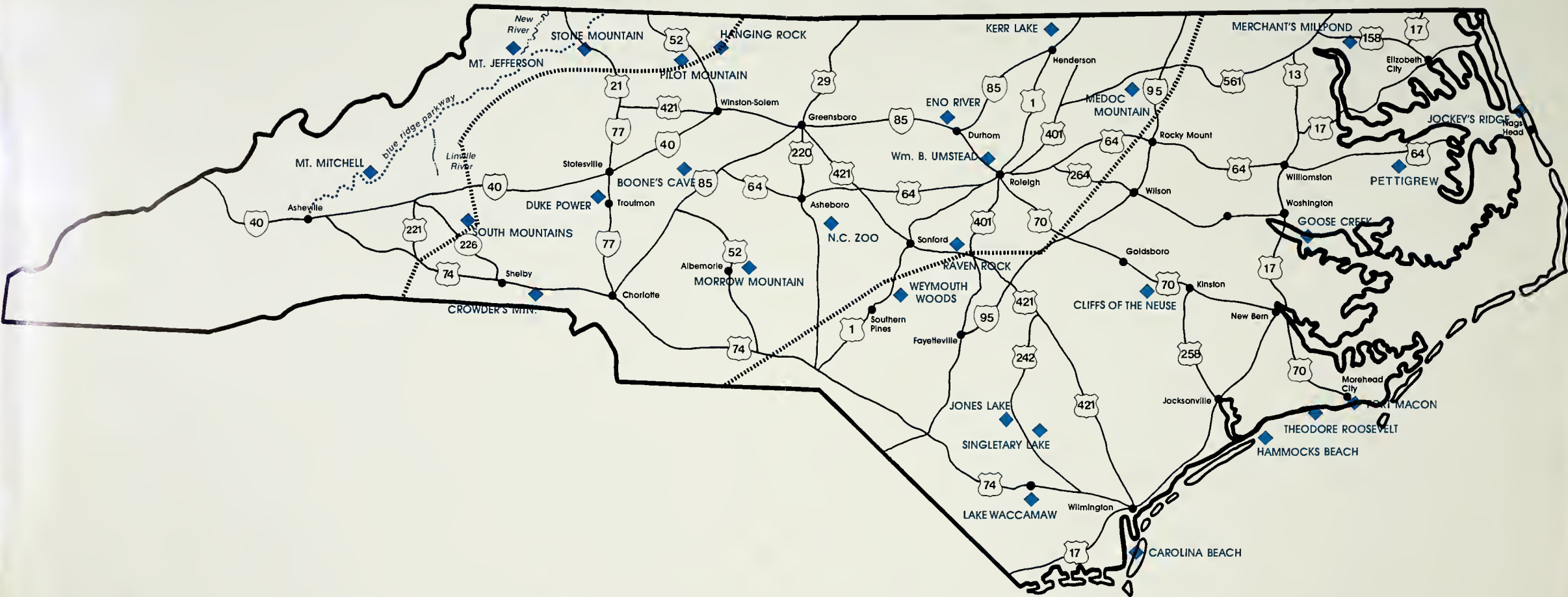
James C. Green
President of the Senate

Carl J. Stewart, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

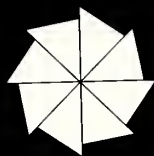
Mountain District

Piedmont District

Coastal District



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N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission
N. C. Department of Commerce
Cover photo: Clay Nolen
Mount Mitchell became the first park in the
North Carolina State Parks System in 1915.



N. C. Department of Natural Resources
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Division of Parks and Recreation
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